

MARCH 2006

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# ASBMB *Today*

Constituent Society of FASEB

AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR BIOCHEMISTRY AND MOLECULAR BIOLOGY



The Rates of the Reactions in Solutions  
Containing Ferrous Sulphate, Potassium  
Iodide, and Chromic Acid

THESIS

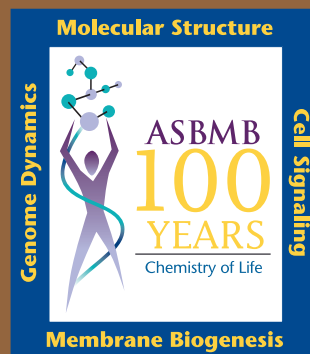
PRESENTED TO THE SENATE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO,  
FOR THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

BY

CLARA C. BENSON

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## Clara Cynthia Benson (1875-1964)



Held in conjunction  
with EB2006

# ASBMB Supports State Initiatives in Wisconsin, Missouri

By Peter Farnham, CAE, ASBMB Public Affairs Officer

**A**t its December 2005 meeting, the ASBMB Council delegated to the Public Affairs Advisory Committee the authority to commit the society to action on state-level initiatives that it learns about in the policy areas of stem cell research, and evolution. As an indication of how volatile these policy areas are in the states, the committee has already decided to support two initiatives—one in each policy area.

***“In dozens of other states, legislation is being introduced that is designed to undermine science education.***

***With Representative Berceau's bill, our state can be the first to set a very different example.”***

**—ASBMB member Mike Cox**

In Wisconsin, state representative Terese Berceau introduced a bill on February 7 that requires any material taught in science class as science to meet two tests: the material must be testable as a scientific hypothesis and describe only natural processes, and must be consistent with any definition of science adopted by the National Academy of Sciences.

ASBMB member Mike Cox, University of Wisconsin, Madison, said of the bill, “In dozens of other states, legisla-

tion is being introduced that is designed to undermine science education. With Representative Berceau's bill, our state can be the first to set a very different example.”

In Missouri, ASBMB is supporting the Missouri Stem Cell Initiative, an effort to get a proposition on the ballot in November in the state that would simply allow any stem cell research to be conducted in Missouri that is allowed at the Federal level. This initiative is being advocated for by the Missouri Coalition for Lifesaving Cures. If passed, this constitutional initiative would insure that any stem cell research or therapies permitted by Federal law would be allowed in Missouri.

ASBMB Council member Joan Conaway, Stowers Medical Research Institute, said of the effort, “This is pretty important here, as there is a group of legislators who repeatedly bring up bills that would criminalize stem cell research or therapies in Missouri.”

ASBMB will consider requests from Society members to assist in state-level efforts in these two policy areas. However, we depend on you to keep us informed of such activities in your state, as we lack the staffing to monitor all fifty states for such activity. Please contact ASBMB Public Affairs Officer Peter Farnham (pfarnham@asbmb.org) for further information. ☞

The picture accompanying the January *ASBMB Today* article, Founding Fathers of ASBMB, was not that of ASBMB's Samuel Johnson. After checking numerous sources, including the Chemical Heritage Foundation, and finding no such picture, we obtained from the National Library of Medicine an electronic image—the only one available—identified as Samuel W. Johnson. Alas, that turned out not to be our Samuel W. Johnson, but instead that of an eighteenth century English chemist, writer and lexicographer with an iden-



*Dr. Samuel W. Johnson*

tical name. Kenneth R. Hanson, one of several members who had pointed out this error, directed us to the Connecticut Agriculture Experimental Station in New Haven, which was able to provide us with the photo at right. Coincidentally, our Dr. Johnson was also one of the founders of the Connecticut institution. In retrospect, a careful look at the clothing worn by the English writer might have alerted us to the error, however that unfortunately was not done in the rush to get the magazine off to the printer.